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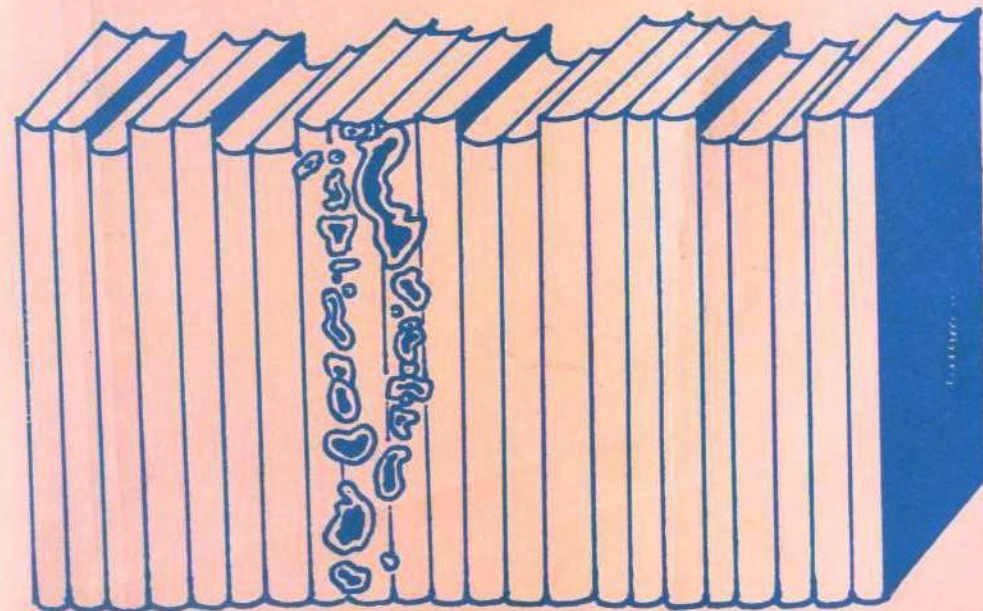
# LIBRARY NEWS

## **The Newsletter of Maldiv Library Association**

A NETWORK FOR MALDIVES LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

VOL: 1

NO: 1



## EDITORIAL

It is with much hope we publish the first issue of Library News. We are confident that this magazine will bring together all those who are interested in the library science and library progress. To say the least, this little news letters will help to put forward news, ideas and ideals of the members of Library Association through it, in order to create interest in library work among the members as well as non-members.

The Library News ofcourse will give news of all the libraries in Maldives, but our first issue will deal with the libraries in Male' as the first few libraries established in Atolls are only in the shape of reading rooms and also we are pressed for time to get information about their libraries in the Atolls.

It is heartening to note that in the Capital of Maldives, Male' itself, with an area of only 1 square mile, we have nine libraries, most of them are school libraries.

We being a small nation, and a developing country, we still need help by way of books and buildings, modern equipments to promote our libraries, to house separate sections for students and teachers' as well as others.

It's our belief that once started, the Library News will grow, spread, and succeed in communicating with the society Amen.



MAJEEDIYYA SCHOOLABSTRACT

Majeediyya Library started in 1969 when the medium of changed over to English. The few books it had at that time were mostly donated by British Council.

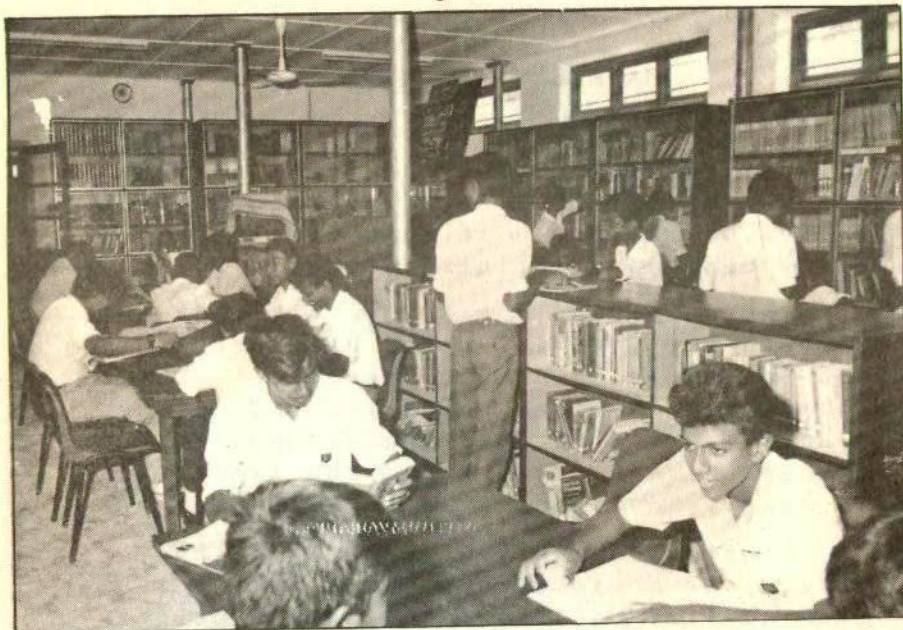
At that time there were not much text books in English Medium for students to read for their studies. Therefore the books were loaned by the British Council. In this way the need of the students and teachers were fulfilled and the library was merely functioning as a mobile service.

During the period 1971- 1974 the library saw a rapid development when Mr. J.M.P Housley was appointed as the principal of the school, and at that time teaching in English was well established.

Mrs.Housley who was a lover of books became the person in charge of the primary library and most of the Lady Bird series books were bought to the library during this period.

The present library has very good collection of text books. dictionaries, encyclopaedias, fiction, periodicals, etc. On various subjects, most of the books are donations. Every year about 50,000 Rufiyas are allocated to the library from the school budget. With this money books are also ordered from publishers and printers through S.T.O. Much and most of the books are ordered from U.K. Periodicals such as Reader's Digest are donated to the library by the old Boys of Majeediyya School.





### AMEENIYYA SCHOOL ABSTRACT

The only data available in the School Logbook pertaining to the library dates back when by means of punch cards, a collection of Rf,725/- was made towards the improvement of the library. This statement reveals when school library was in existence in 1968.

In the 1980 the Librarian was Mrs. Khalida Hassan. It was housed in the present staff room. At that time Ameeniyya library was still in its infancy, with about 3000 books. but the books were catalogued to non-fiction and fiction and according to subjects. There was a system in the borrowing of books, and fines were implemented when books were lost. In 1985 Mrs. Khadeeja Mohamed became the Librarian after a short period of training at the British Council Library in Colombo, with Khalida Hassan assisting her.

In 1985 Mrs. Athifa Hassan was appointed Assistant Librarian the same year, she got a training in Bangkok under UNESCO after which it became easier to manage and Catalogue the library. The school library was always provided for the school Budget. In addition furniture were donated to the library in 1988, by His Excellency Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives in 1988. Books were donated by the British Council.

Books that are torn or otherwise damaged are distributed free to the children. The users of the library include children as well as teachers.



The library hours are from 7.00am to 6.30pm on all school working days.

The reference books are available to teachers to be taken for overnight reference.

In conclusion I would say that the present state of the library is not very satisfactory. It needs lot of improvement with the keep of the school authorities and the library staff I would to my utmost to upgrade the library to meet the needs of the students.

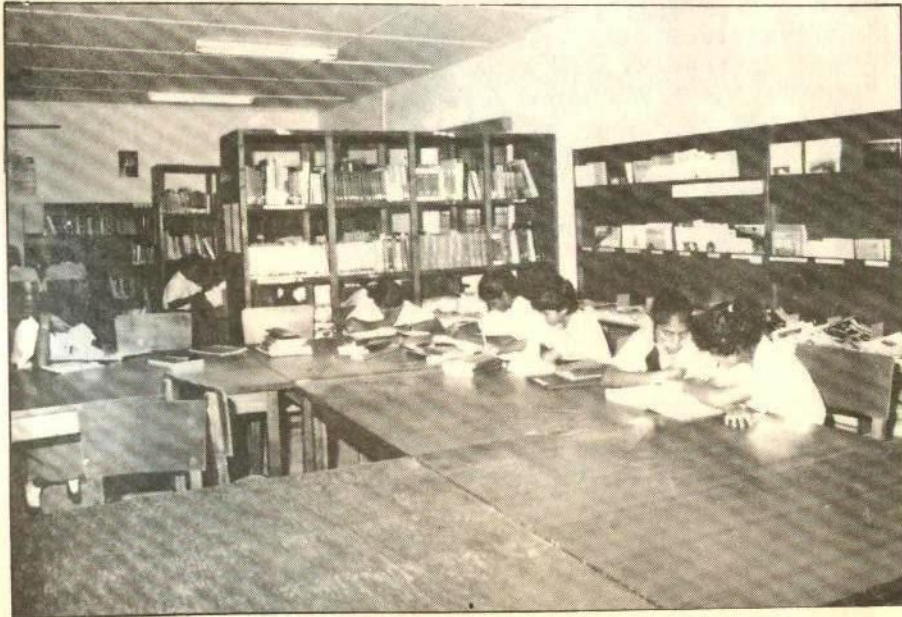
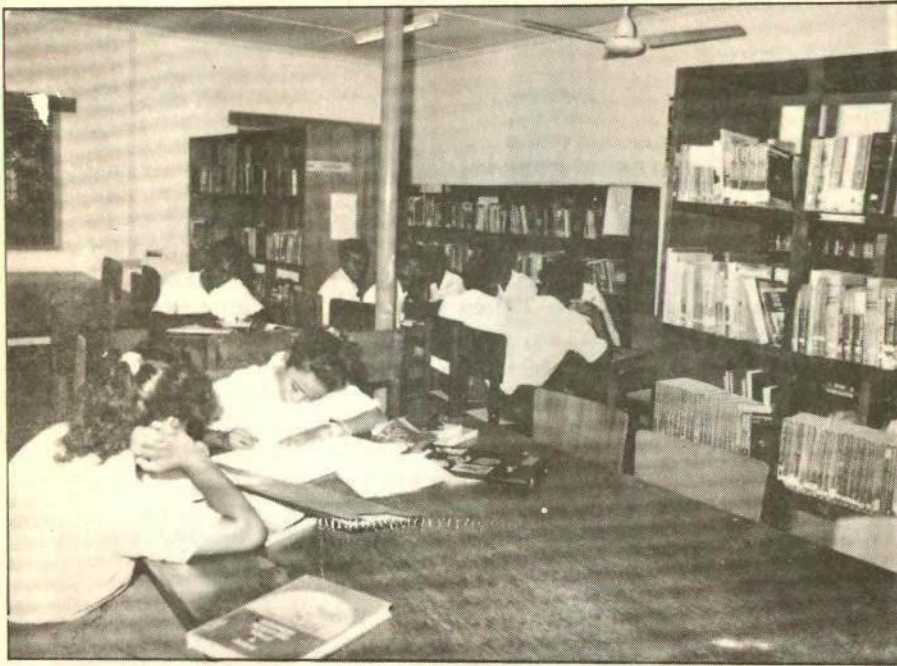


# SCIENCE EDUCATION CENTRE ABSTRACT

Science Education Centre was established in July 1979 for advanced level students in the Maldives and the library is also existing from that time onwards. The library collection was built at the beginning with books from other school libraries. At present British Council is sending books, periodicals, etc. On Audio-basis, Netherland Government also provide aids for the library. The collection of books and other materials are based on specific subjects such as Mathematics, Statistics, English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Economics, Islam, etc. The books are classified according to Dewy Decimal Classification and the cataloging is already started as it was not done.

In the library there are no qualified or trained technical staff to handle the work except the librarian. Young school leavers are employed as library staff and the librarian has to get them trained to get the work done efficiently. We have to get the work done periodicals and furniture (cupboards, racks, etc.) the members in the future. The main problem in the school library is that the librarians salary. That is why we don't get librarians to work in the libraries.





## JAMALUDDEEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

### ABSTRACT

JPS was opened on the 2nd of February 1985 and it is only four and half years old now. Hence the school library too does not have along history.

At the beginning there had been only 3366 books but without proper furniture such as cupboards, racks, tables and chairs, but to-day the numbers has gone upto 19,388. In 1987 we equipped the room with library cupboards, and other necessary furniture. We started getting down books from abroad, as the books in the local markedt were more expensive and lakced variety.

We have got down a variety of books like, Teachers guides, teachers' reference books, Lady Bird and books on History, Language, Mathematics, Elementary Science, Environment, Art, Craft, Music, hobbies, etc. We have bought a few sets of Encyclopaedias meant for the children. This small library does not consist of only books. It has a resource centre as well. We bought a few Audio-Visual aids and some Cassettes for music.

The library needs to be enlarged. At present the school library is too small for her population of 2376 students up to grade 4, as it is only one class room converted into a library.

The main problems and need are:-

1. Since it is classroom, there is no way of converting it into a proper library as far as the space is concerned.



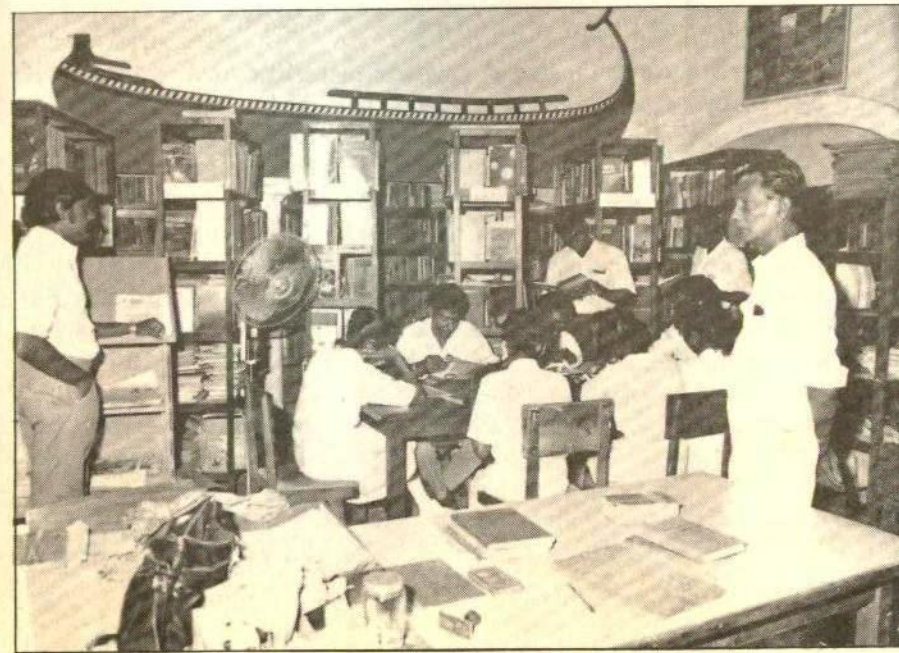
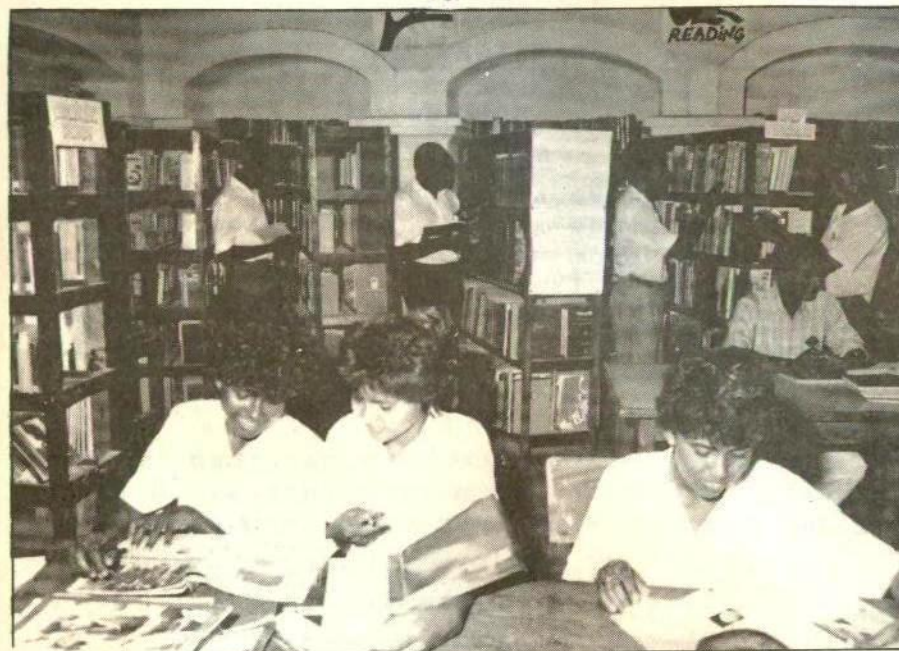
2. There is no other place to build a new library.

3. Unless the library is big enough it is not possible to instal more shelves and furniture.

4. When the school orders books from abroad it takes some time to get them and we are not getting all the books we have ordered; perhaps because of the delay.

5. It is more expensive to buy it locally.

6. We have hardly any reading material for the primary children in Dhivehi language. As a remedied measure we have proposed to the PTA to organize an island-wide competition in writing books for small children in Dhivehi Language.





## ENGLISH PREPARATORY AND SECONDARY

### SCHOOL ABSTRACT

We have a fairly good library. Most of the collections are donations from various organizations from abroad like Ranfurly Library service London. These collections were supplemented by the government schools - Majeediya and Ameeniya - as well. However, majority of the books donated, were second-hand ones. Yet we make the maximum use of them with extra care.

Lack of space is a handicap to accommodate the students in our library. Hence, our library serves mainly as a lending one.

To enhance our library service in particular and other libraries in Male; the S.T.O. or private bookshops should make duty free books available so that the libraries could avail better reading.

The library lacks qualified Librarians. If something could be done in this direction it would be of great help. As a matter of fact, if some personal could be trained in this field of studies and loaned or assigned to schools, school libraries could be run better and the service to their patrons too would be of a higher standard. This we consider is one of the supreme needs of the present.

## THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE MALDIVES

### ABSTRACT

### HISTORY

The National Library of the Republic of Maldives was founded by Late Amir Mohamed Amin Didi in the year 1945 as a state library. Few years later Amin Didi changed its name to Majeedi Library. Members of this state owned Library had to be literate in Arabic, Urdu and English language. Membership fee was 2/- Maldivian Rufiyaa.

The Library was opened to members only. The lending system was based on registering the name of the member, book borrowed, and date of issue. The library was staffed by two people.

### PROGRESS

Over the years from 1945 to 1982 the library was functioned in much the same manner. However with new contacts made with the British Council, Asia Foundation UNESCO, and Congress Library, the stock of the books in the library increased. New developments took place, which include:

- 1) A revolving book exchange with the assistance of the British Council.



2) The establishment of a depositary Library services of 'International Organizations such as UNESCO, FAO and the Library of Congress.

3) Annual book presentations from British overseas Development Agency, facilitated through British Council.

1982 saw many changes in this library. The most significant change has been renaming of the library. The name of the library was changed from Majeedi Library to the National Library. This change was brought by the Presidential Decree No: 55/1982.

The first in-country library training programme was started with the assistance of the Asia Foundation, and a regular training scheme established with the British Council in Sri Lanka.

The absence of a professional Librarian and lack of training of the library staff was a major set back to run the National Library, as it could not function, without classifying the books. An Advisor/teacher was appointed for this work and for the first time the National Library was able to start a library training programme for the library staff under which library assistants from other libraries were given the Basic induction course in Library Science, 1986 saw many progressive changes which include:

1. Complete classification of all books in the library according to the Dewy Decimal Classification System.

2. The introduction of a children's section in the library. Appropriate furniture and books were obtained for this section.

3. A childrens' Club was formed with various activities to promote reading among children.. This Club meets every Thursday Children engage in story-telling, watch video films, organize excursions to places of interest, on a volunteer basis. Membership of children in the library now stands 1039, as compared with the adult membership of 176.

4. A Card Catalogue introduced to facilitate easier access to books.

5. On-going, on-the-job training of library staff of the National Library, as well as overseas training.

6. Training provided for library staff from other institutions.

7. A library Association was formed which aims to;

- improve and raise the standard of the National Library and all other libraries.



- establish cooperation among all libraries and to make a bibliography of all books in the libraries.
- make people aware of the usefulness of reading and the enjoyment of reading.
- encourage more people to become librarians and to obtain training courses for them.

8. A library Board was established in 1988. Members to this Board are appointed by H.E. The President. This Board acts as an advisory body on the strengthening of library facilities in the Maldives.

### DONATIONS

The British Government continues to assist the library in donations. The Asia Foundation contributed a substantial amount of books. Donations from Maldivians are received by the library from time to time. The library received books at a cost of S \$5000.00 from Mr. Abdul Nasir of G. Diamond Villa. a former student of Majeediyya School. This interest by Maldivians to increase reading opportunities for the public is very encouraging indeed.

### CONCLUSION

Libraries have a key role to play in increasing the educational background of people. As reading Centres, research centres. The National Library serves as a focal point for the development of Libraries. To be able to play this role in the library. has to overcome and solve our major problem, that of training the staff of its own and of other libraries. It is hoped that with more interest from libraries in Maldives, and with the help from our friendly countries.

The National Library will be able to achieve its aim.

